

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03578 01 OF 03 122331Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3355

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 03578

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

AMEMBASSY PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY JAZAIRY AT SEPT. 11 PRESS CONFER-
ENCE

THE VERBATIM TEXT OF THE OPENING STATEMENT MADE BY IDRIS
JAZAIRY, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AT A
PRESS CONFERENCE (REPORTED SEPTEL) CALLED BY THE G-77
AT UN HEADQUARTERS, SEPTEMBER 11, 1978 FOLLOWS BELOW:

MY PURPOSE IS TO INFORM YOU OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
CONCERNING THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 32/174 IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS RECOGNITION OF THE
NECESSITY OF A GLOBAL NEGOTIATION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE UNITED NATIONS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE NEW INTERNATION-
AL ECONOMIC ORDER.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03578 01 OF 03 122331Z

THE RESUMED SESSION OF THIS HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE WAS TO
HAVE TAKEN PLACE 5 SEPTEMBER TO PURSUE THE DISCUSSION
OF THE "TRANSFER OF RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES".
IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE COMMITTEE, UNTIL 15 SEPTEMBER, DEVOTED TO WORLD FOOD
PROBLEMS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE STRENGTHENING

OF THE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND TO THE SPECIAL AND PRESSING PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST
DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES AND THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES.

HOWEVER, THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE HAS COME TO AN ABRUPT
END BECAUSE OF PERSISTING DISAGREEMENT AS TO ITS
MISSION, WITHOUT ITS HAVING BEEN IN A POSITION TO RESUME
ITS WORK ON SUBSTANCE.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THIS BODY WAS CREATED BY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY WITH A VIEW TO PURSUING WITH BETTER
CHANCES OF SUCCESS THE PROCESS OF DIALOGUE WHICH WAS
UNEVENTFUL IN THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION, WHILST SEEKING TO BROADEN THE AREAS OF
AGREEMENT AND TO ENSURE UNIVERSAL INVOLVEMENT.

LIKE THE CONFERENCE, THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP
WITHIN A LIMITED TIME-FRAME -- IN THIS CASE THE SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD IN 1980 ON THE
NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

THE DECISION TAKEN ON THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE WAS AN EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE INTERNATION-
AL COMMUNITY TO BRING BACK THE DIALOGUE TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AND TO ACHIEVE A BROAD BASE OF AGREEMENT ON THE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 03578 01 OF 03 122331Z

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS ALREADY TAKEN, IN PARTICULAR
AT THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
32/174 BY CONSENSUS, DIFFERENT GROUPS OF COUNTRIES
HIGHLIGHTED DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF ITS MANDATE. SOME UNDER-
LINED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
POLICY-MAKERS; OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS NEGOTIATING
FUNCTION TO FIND CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO UNRESOLVED
PROBLEMS, AND OTHERS STILL HAD IT THAT THE EMPHASIS
SHOULD BE ON ITS PREPARATORY FUNCTION IN RELATION TO THE
1980 SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WHILE THIS DIVERGENCE APPEARED TO INVOLVE DIFFERENCES
IN EMPHASIS WHICH COULD BE TIED TOGETHER IN A COMPLEMENTARY
FASHION, THOSE DIFFERENCES CRYSTALLIZED THEREAFTER INTO
CONFLICTING POSITIONS.

THE ISSUE INITIALLY AROSE AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE IN MAY, WHEN THE DISCUSSION ON A DRAFT TEXT
ON "TRANSFER OF RESOURCES" WAS ABOUT TO BE COMPLETED
AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS. AT THAT JUNCTURE, A
DEVELOPED COUNTRY QUESTIONED THE STATUS OF THE DOCUMENT

AND INSISTED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE A COMMITTEE DOCUMENT
BUT ONLY A SUMMING UP BY THE CHAIRMAN.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STRESSED THAT THIS DID NOT COMPLY WITH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 32/174 WHICH NOWHERE MENTIONED
A PROCEDURE BUT, ON THE CONTRARY, STRESSED IN ITS
OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS THAT THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WAS TO
ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS - A PROCEDURE CLEARLY INCOMPATIBLE
WITH THE ONE PROPOSED. THIS BROUGHT DISCUSSIONS ON
SUBSTANCE TO A STANDSTILL. NOR DID THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES SUPPORT THE VIEW PUT FORWARD THAT THE ROLE
OF THE COMMITTEE WAS LIMITED TO THAT OF A PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION, THEY ADDUCED THE
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PAGE 04 USUN N 03578 01 OF 03 122331Z

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03578 02 OF 03 122333Z
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O 122323Z SEP 78

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ARGUMENT THAT, AS MENTIONED IN THE RESOLUTION, THE COMMITTEE WAS TO PROVIDE IMPETUS TO ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE A PROBLEM-SOLVING ROLE AS REGARDS CURRENT DIFFICULTIES, A ROLE IT COULD CLEARLY NOT PLAY IF ITS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WERE TO BE SHELVED UNTIL THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1980.

IT THUS BECAME CLEAR THAT THERE WAS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH. IN PARTICULAR, A GROUP OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INSISTED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. AREAS OF CONVERGENCE AND OF DIVERGENCE AS THEY WOULD APPEAR FROM STATEMENTS WOULD THEN BE BROUGHT TOGETHER IN A CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP AND BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AS THEY MIGHT DEEM FIT BY POLICY MAKERS AT THE VARIOUS CAPITALS. ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER HAND CONSIDERED THAT THIS PROCE-

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03578 02 OF 03 122333Z

DURE WAS TOO LOOSE AND WOULD NOT PERMIT THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE OR FACE UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD ENTRUSTED TO IT.

THIS STANDSTILL LED TO A CANCELLATION OF THE JUNE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE. I NEVERTHELESS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE ECOSOC MEETING IN GENEVA THIS SUMMER TO ORGANIZE AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, AND WHILE NO FINAL CONCLUSION WAS REACHED I HAD THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. IN PARTICULAR, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACCEPTED TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES BY ENDORSING THE PRINCIPLE OF UNANIMITY AS THE BASIS FOR THE POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED THAT THE POSITIONS OF THIS BODY WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND NOT IN THE SHAPE OF THE FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO IN RESOLUTION 32/174. FINALLY, THEY AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO DISCUSSIONS ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF CENTRAL ISSUES RELATED TO ANY ONE ITEM ON ITS AGENDA. THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RECIPROCATED BY GIVING UP THE CONTENTION THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF TO AN OVERVIEW FUNCTION WHICH WAS ONLY PART OF ITS MANDATE UNDER OPERATIONAL PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE RESOLUTION. THEY ALSO ACCEPTED TO GIVE UP THEIR CLAIM FOR REPLACING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS BY CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING UP AND SETTLED FOR THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS.

AFTER A RESUMED INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON 4 SEPTEMBER, I SUBMITTED THE DRAFT OF A STATEMENT WHICH I WOULD BE MAKING

TO DISPEL MISUNDERSTANDINGS AS TO THE ISSUE OF DECISION
MAKING IN THE COMMITTEE AND IN PARTICULAR OPERATIVE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 03578 02 OF 03 122333Z

PARAGRAPH 4.

IN THIS STATEMENT I PROPOSED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD
NEGOTIATE TO ADOPT GUIDELINES ON CENTRAL POLICY ISSUES
AND TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS ON THE RESOLUTION OF
FUNDAMENTAL OR CRUCIAL ISSUES UNDERLYING PROBLEMS RELATED
TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, THE OUTCOME
BEING, OF COURSE, AGREED CONCLUSIONS. THIS
PROPOSAL, WHILE ACCEPTED BY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE, WAS THEN CALLED INTO QUESTION BY ONE
MEMBER. TWO ARGUMENTS WERE PUT FORWARD:

- THAT AS REGARDS UNRESOLVED FUNDAMENTAL OR CRUCIAL ISSUES,
THE COMMITTEE'S NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO BE
PURSUED TO THE STAGE OF REACHING AGREEMENT.

- THAT SUCH AGREEMENT AS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED WOULD NOT
OVERLAP WITH AGREEMENTS REACHED IN OTHER FORUMS.

THERE SEEMS, HOWEVER, TO BE BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW
THAT BY DEFINITION THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATION IS TO
ATTEMPT TO REACH AGREEMENT. AS FOR THE DANGER OF
OVERLAPPING, THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACCEPTED MY
PROPOSAL THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEMS OUT-
STANDING IN OTHER FORA INSTEAD OF THOSE FORA, BUT ONLY
ACHIEVE AGREED CONCLUSIONS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL OR
CRUCIAL ISSUES WHICH THE PROBLEMS MIGHT INVOLVE AND ONLY
TO THE EXTENT THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD
UNANIMOUSLY DECIDE TO DISCUSS THEM AND TO TAKE A POSITION
THEREON. THEREFORE TO INSIST ON FURTHER SPECIFYING THAT
SUCH AGREEMENTS WOULD NOT OVERLAP WITH AGREEMENTS REACHED
IN OTHER FORA WAS EITHER TAUTOLOGOUS OR WOULD HAVE TO BE
INTERPRETED AS DEPRIVING THE COMMITTEE OF THE RIGHT OF
TAKING A POSITION ON ANY ISSUE CENTRAL TO A PROBLEM
DISCUSSED ELSEWHERE. AS ALL PROBLEMS ARE IN FACT BEING
DISCUSSED IN ONE FORUM OR ANOTHER, THIS WOULD HAVE DENIED
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PAGE 04 USUN N 03578 02 OF 03 122333Z

TO THE COMMITTEE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXERCISING THE PROBLEM-
SOLVING ROLE INCUMBENT UPON IT.

EVEN IF THE PROPOSED TWO-TIER PROCEDURE WERE NOT SUFFI-

CIENT, THE UNANIMITY PROCEDURE WOULD BE THE BEST SAFEGUARD

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TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT TAKE A
POSITION AGAINST THE OBJECTION OF ANY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE PURPOSE OF MY CONSULTATIONS
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS WAS TO DRAW UP A CHAIRMAN'S
SUMMING UP ON PROCEDURE WHICH WOULD NOT COMMIT
GOVERNMENTS AND FOR WHICH I WAS ONLY SEEKING NOT
TO BE CHALLENGED, I FEEL THAT THERE CAN BE ONLY THREE
EXPLANATIONS TO THE PRESENT STALEMATE:

- EITHER THERE IS NO POLITICAL WILL FOR MEANINGFUL
DIALOGUE;

- OR THE DIALOGUE IS UNDERGOING A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE SO
ACUTE THAT NO REASONABLE FORM OF LANGUAGE CAN OVERCOME
IT,

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03578 03 OF 03 122333Z

- OR THERE IS STILL A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH WHEREBY SOME WOULD SEE ITS ROLE AS BEING LIMITED TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS, NEGOTIATIONS BEING UNDERTAKEN ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE FORMULATION IN WHICH THEY SHOULD BE COUCHED, WHILE OTHERS WOULD SEE IT AS A DYNAMIC PROCESS WHICH WOULD OPEN UP NEW AVENUES FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL DELEGATIONS, AND TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE UNSTINTING PERSONAL SUPPORT HE GAVE ME IN THOSE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

I AM SURE THAT WITH THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE IN THIS COMMITTEE AND THEREFORE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE CENTRAL ROLE THE UNITED NATIONS HAVE TO PLAY IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. ANY OTHER SOLUTION WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE.

THE STAKES ARE HIGH AND SO ARE, STILL, OUR HOPES. YOUNG

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